

# EBOLA: EPIDEMIOLOGY OF FEAR


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Is all the information we get from the media true?

What were the consequences of the outbreak?

Have we experienced other similar epidemics?

## Epidemiology of Ebola disease

### Biology

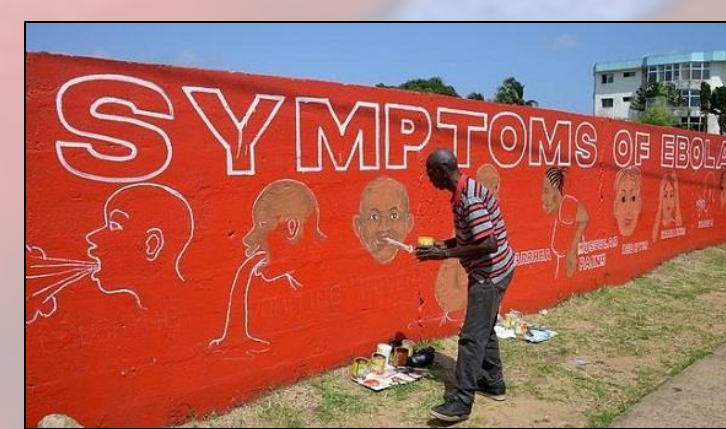
- The Ebola virus causes the disease
- It belongs to the Filoviridae family
- It is transmitted through direct contact with blood or other body fluids from infected/dead people/animals
- Some mammals like bats, chimpanzees and gorillas are a reservoir of the virus

### Symptoms:

- Fever
- Weakness and muscular pain
- Throat and head pain
- Vomit
- Diarrhoea
- Rashes
- Kidney and liver failure
- Internal and external haemorrhages

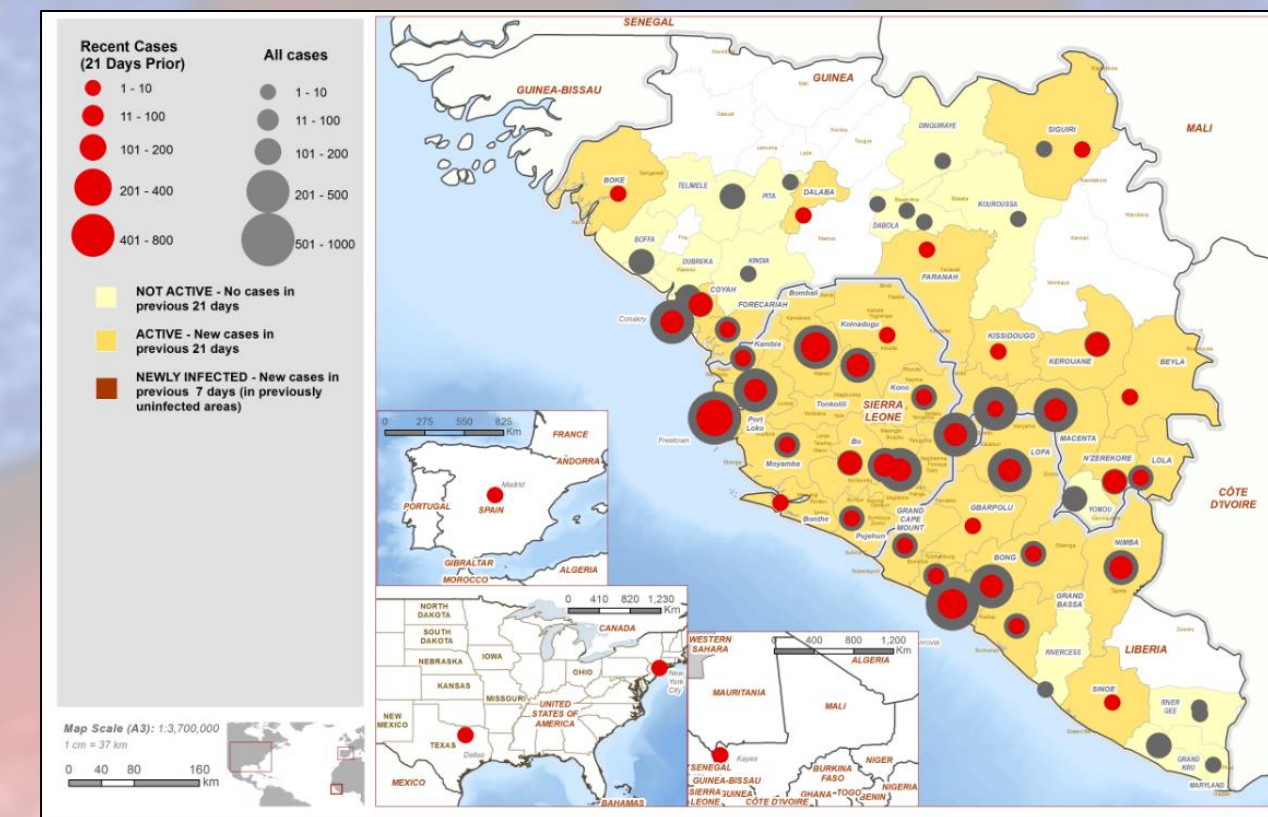
### History

Ebola was considered to be an African endemic disease, however, the last outbreak has put the whole world on alert.



## Ebola 2014 outbreak

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2014 the World Health Organization declared a new outbreak of Ebola in Guinea. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, they considered the epidemic as a public health emergency of global concern.



Affected countries	Specie	Cases	Dead	Death rate
Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, Spain, United States and United Kingdom	Ebola Zaire	18.603	6.915	37%

Why were so many people affected in the latter Ebola outbreak?

- Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are very poor countries
- Previous outbreaks occurred in isolated rural areas, never in big cities
- Lack of adequate health infrastructure and medical staff
- Lack of preparation and social information
- Awareness and prevention campaigns had difficulties being understood
- Culture burials that included physical contact with the dead
- High population flow



## Consequences of the outbreak



People were afraid and they needed to accuse someone of spreading the disease.



### Stigmatization and victimization of Ebola survivors



### Unequal economic efforts



### Fear spread faster than the virus

23 inmigrantes, cinco horas aislados en una playa por sospechas de ébola. *El País*

Ebola moving faster than control efforts. *New York Times*

El virus del Ébola, fuera de control. *El Periódico*

British Airways suspende sus vuelos a Sierra Leona y Liberia por el ébola. *El Periódico*

Ebola out of control. *The Independent*

El ébola, un problema global. *El País*

Un millón de euros para salvar un enfermo de ébola fuera de África. *El País*

El ébola en España: "Le he dicho a mi mujer que, por si acaso, no se acue al hospital". *El País*

El ébola ya está aquí. *El Periódico*

El perro de la contagiada de ébola será sacrificado para "evitar riesgos". *El País*

## Other current epidemics

### Avian influenza

Virus that affects mainly the poultry, but also humans. It is transmitted by direct contact with an infected animal.

**400 cases and 250 dead**

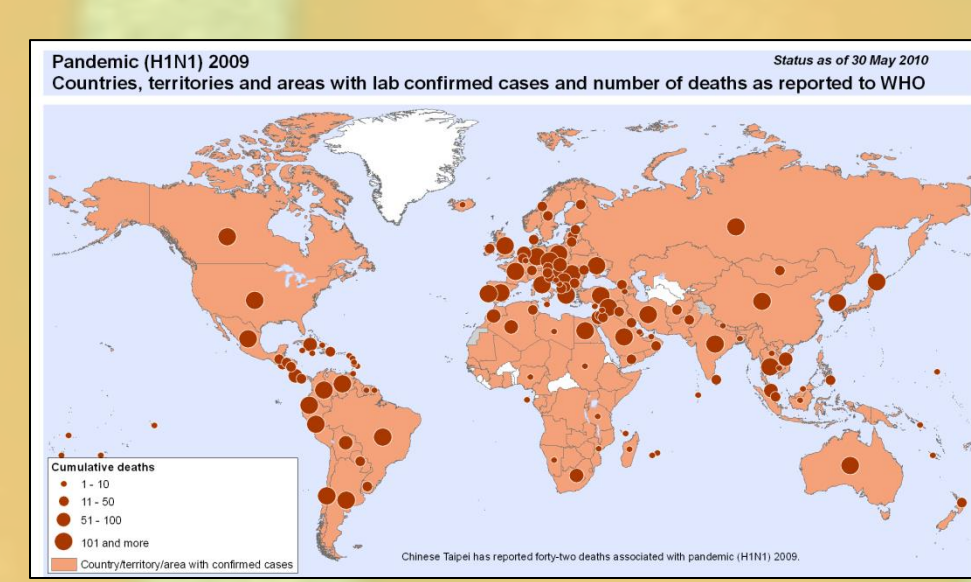
#### Preventive measures:

- Import restriction of poultry meat and other products
- Quarantine of imported poultry
- Poultry slaughtering



### CAUTION! Influenza A

Variant strain of seasonal flu.  
**>622.500 cases and 18.000 dead**



#### Preventive measures:

- Non certificated masks 5 times more expensive
- Football matches without public
- Demonstrations, festivals and cinemas were banned

### Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

It is transmitted through the consumption of beef infected with the BSE agent.

**200 cases and 90 dead**

#### Preventive measures:

- Cattle slaughtering
- Global beef trade decline



## CAUTION?

### Tuberculosis

